

Notice of Agency Rule-making Proposal

AGENCY: Maine State Harness Racing Commission

CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:

Chapter 7, Racing

Chapter 9, Sire Stakes

Chapter 13, Pari-Mutuel

PROPOSED RULE NUMBER:

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:

Henry Jennings

CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION (if different):

PUBLIC HEARING: 10:00 A.M. on February 24, 2021, via video conference:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87838351859?pwd=MGQwZ2hsSGl6TmpxV2dlOW1ybzRYZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3835 1859

Passcode: 775501

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+19292056099,,87838351859# US (New York)

Dial In Number: 929 205 6099 US (New York)

COMMENT DEADLINE: 5:00 P.M. on March 8, 2021

BRIEF SUMMARY:

Chapter 7, Racing

The proposed amendments add language regarding trainer responsibilities, specifically pertaining to ensuring the correct horse is raced and when horses are permitted to leave the paddock. There are updates to whip specifications and language from United State Trotting Association's whipping rules to provide clarification on the acceptable uses of a whip. The amendments pay out purses to six places, revise the language for coupled entries and remove the Querrion rule. Finally, a few subsections were moved and placed under a more logical section.

Chapter 9, Sire Stakes

The proposed amendments prohibit the coupling of horses entered into a Sire Stakes race, as well as the segregation of horses with common ownership into separate divisions during the draw. There is also a proposed amendment to eliminate subsection that states Sire Stakes participants must adhere to the 45 day rule found in Chapter 7.

Chapter 13, Pari-Mutuel

The proposed amendments add a table illustrating the minimum wagers as they pertain to the various types of betting pools, provides clarification as to when certain types of bets can be accepted, and removes outdated language and practices.

IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES (if any)

None.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE: 8 M.R.S. §§ 263-A, 264, 267-A, 268, 272-B, 272-C, 279, 279-A, 279-E, 281, 298

SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED (if different):

None.

E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULE-MAKING LIAISON:

Shannon.ayotte@maine.gov

* Check one of the following two boxes.

☐ The above summary is for use in both the newspaper and website notices.

☐ The above summary is for the newspaper notice only. A more detailed summary / basis statement is attached.

Please approve bottom portion of this form and assign appropriate AdvantageME number.

APPROVED FOR PAYMENT



DATE: January 26, 2021

Authorized signature

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APP
07

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OBJT
4946

AMOUNT

Rule-Making Fact Sheet

(5 MRSA §8057-A)

AGENCY: Maine State Harness Racing Commission

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OF AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:

Henry Jennings, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028, 207-287-7568

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE:

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 8 M.R.S. §§ 263-A, 263-C, 264, 267-A, 268, 272-B, 272-C, 279, 279-A, 279-E, 281, 298

DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING: 10:00 A.M. on February 24, 2021 via video conference

COMMENT DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2021

PRINCIPAL REASON OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE:

Chapter 7, Racing - To update a number of provisions consistent with modern racing rules, including: that it is the trainer's responsibility to ensure that their horse is raced correctly; that the horse remains in the paddock until either tested or released per the Presiding Judge; adopting the United States Trotting Association's language on the use of the whip; paying purses to the top six finishers, removing the Querrion rule, revising the coupling language and numerous other minor changes.

Chapter 9, Sire Stakes – To prevent the coupling of horses in a race and the segregation of horses with common ownership into separate divisions. Also to remove the subsection stating that Sire Stakes horses must adhere to the 45 day rule.

Chapter 13, Pari-Mutuel – To modernize the language to reflect current bets accepted, provide a table illustrating the minimum wagers as they pertain to the various types of betting pools and specify when certain types of bets can be wagered.

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE:

Chapter 7, Racing - The proposed amendments are intended to better align the rule with modern practices, to better distribute purses, and to increase the number of races that may be bet on.

Chapter 9, Sire Stakes – The proposed amendments are designed to create an equal opportunity for all Sire Stake participants to acquire purse money in a race. By not allowing multiple horses under the same trainer's care to enter into any given race, the purse is able to be distributed to a greater number of trainers/owners.

Chapter 13, Pari-Mutuel – The proposed amendments are intended to provide clarification to the types of bets and when they can be placed, also eliminating references to antiquated language and practices.

FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE:

FOR RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS:

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS AFFECTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED:

BENEFITS OF THE RULE:

Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.